

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A remote control for an interactive television system, the remote control comprising:

a memory ~~configured~~ to store a list of contacts, each contact being represented by an ~~having an associated~~ address for establishing communication with the contact via the interactive television system and a picture for selecting the contact;

a display device ~~configured~~ to display at least a portion of the pictures representing list of contacts;

a plurality of user controls ~~configured~~ to receive a user selection of a picture representing a particular contact from the list, the user controls further being configured to remotely operate the interactive television system; and

a wireless transmitter ~~configured~~ to transmit the address corresponding to the selected contact to the interactive television system to initiate communication between a user and the selected contact.

2. (original) The remote control of claim 1, wherein the display device comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

3. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 1, further comprising:
a microphone ~~configured~~ to capture a first audio signal for transmission to the interactive television system via the wireless transmitter.

4. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 3, further comprising:
a wireless receiver ~~configured~~ to receive a second audio signal; and
a speaker ~~configured~~ to generate audible output from the second audio
signal.

5. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 4, wherein the
speaker and the microphone are further ~~configured~~ to operate simultaneously to
provide two-way audio communication with the contact via the interactive television
system.

6. (original) The remote control of claim 5, wherein at least one address
comprises a network address.

7. (original) The remote control of claim 6, wherein the network address
is selected from the group consisting of an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a
telephone address, and a Media Access Control (MAC) address.

8. (original) The remote control of claim 7, wherein the network address
designates a second interactive television system.

9. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 3, further comprising:
a storage component ~~configured~~ to store at least one digitized verbal
identifier for at least one contact of the list of contacts; and

a voice recognition component ~~configured~~ to receive and digitize a verbal expression from the user, to compare the digitized verbal expression with the digitized verbal identifier, and to designate the contact with a digitized verbal identifier that matches the digitized verbal expression as the selected contact.

10. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 1, further comprising:
a contact entry component ~~configured~~ to receive a user selection of a new contact to be entered into the list of contacts.

11. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 10, wherein the user controls are further ~~configured~~ to permit entry enter a new contact into the list of contacts stored in the memory.

12. (currently amended) The remote control of claim 11, wherein the user controls are further ~~configured~~ to permit manual entry manually enter the new contact.

13. (currently amended) The remote control of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 10, wherein the user controls are further ~~configured~~ to permit selection of a contact from a list being displayed by the interactive television system as the new contact.

14. (currently amended) The remote control of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 10, wherein at least one user control is ~~configured~~ to permit selection a contact from a list of contacts with whom the user has previously communicated as the new contact.

15. (currently amended) The remote control of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 10, wherein the user controls are ~~further configured~~ to permit reception ~~receive~~ of the new contact from a list stored in an external electronic device.

Claims 16-19 (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A system for providing two-way communication using an interactive television system, the system comprising:

a remote control ~~configured~~ to control operation of the interactive television system, the remote control further comprising a plurality of user controls ~~configured~~ to receive a user selection of a contact from a list of contacts, each contact having an associated address for establishing two-way communication with the contact, the remote control further comprising a wireless transmitter ~~configured~~ to transmit the address corresponding to the selected contact; ~~and~~

a set top box having a wireless receiver for receiving the address corresponding to the selected contact from the remote control, the set top box ~~being further configured to~~ for establishing two-way communication with the selected contact via the interactive television system; and

an output device for generating television output, wherein the remote control comprises an input device for capturing a first audio signal including both a user's voice and the television output, and wherein the set top box comprises a noise cancellation component to cancel the television output from the captured first audio signal and pass the user's voice.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the input device is a microphone to capture the user's voice for transmission to the set top box via the wireless transmitter, the remote control further compris[es]ing:

~~a microphone configured to capture a first audio signal for transmission to the set top box via the wireless transmitter;~~

~~a wireless receiver configured to receive a second audio signal; and~~

~~a speaker configured to generate audible output from the second audio signal.~~

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the speaker and the microphone are ~~further configured~~ to operate simultaneously to provide two-way audio communication with the contact via the interactive television system.

23. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the remote control further comprises a memory ~~configured~~ to store the list of contacts.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the remote control further comprises a display device ~~configured~~ to display at least a portion of the list of contacts.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the set top box further comprises:

a microphone ~~configured to capture~~ the user's voice ~~a first audio signal for transmission to the set top box via the wireless transmitter, and~~

a speaker ~~configured~~ to generate audible output from ~~the~~ a second audio signal.

26. (currently amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the speaker and the microphone are ~~further configured~~ to operate simultaneously to provide two-way audio communication with the contact via the interactive television system, through the set top box.

27. (currently amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the set top box further comprises a memory ~~configured~~ to store the list of contacts.

28. (original) The system of claim 27, wherein the contacts are displayed on a television of the interactive television system.

29. (currently amended) A system for providing two-way communication using an interactive television system, the system comprising:

a remote control ~~configured~~ to control operation of the interactive television system, the remote control comprising a storage component ~~configured~~ to store a list of contacts, each contact having an associated address for establishing communication with the contact via the interactive television system; a display component ~~configured~~ to display at least a portion of the list of contacts; a user selection component ~~configured~~ to receive a user selection of a contact from the list; and a transmission component ~~configured~~ to transmit the address corresponding to the selected contact to the interactive television system to initiate communication between a user and the selected contact; and a contact entry component to receive user selections of new contacts to be entered into the list of contacts.

Claim 30 (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein the contact entry component further comprises a manual entry component ~~configured~~ to receive a new contact manually entered by the user.

32. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein the contact entry component further comprises a displayed list selection component ~~configured~~ to receive a new contact from a list displayed by the interactive television system.

33. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein the contact entry component further comprises a past/present communication selection component ~~configured~~ to receive a new contact selected from the group consisting of a contact with whom communication is presently occurring over the interactive television system and a contact with whom communication has previously occurred over the interactive television system.

34. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein the contact entry component further comprises an external receipt component ~~configured~~ to receive a new contact from an external electronic device.

35. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, further comprising:
a set top box ~~configured~~ to receive the address corresponding to the selected contact from the remote control and to initiate communication between the user and the selected contact.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the set top box comprises a broadband communication component ~~configured~~ to initiate communication with the selected contact via a second interactive television system.

37. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the set top box comprises an Internet communication component ~~configured~~ to initiate communication with the selected contact via the Internet.

38. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the set top box comprises a telephone network component ~~configured~~ to initiate communication with the selected contact via a telephone network.

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the interactive television system comprises an output device for generating ~~audible~~ television output, wherein the remote control comprises an input device for capturing an audio signal including the ~~audible~~ television output and a user's voice, and wherein the set top box comprises a noise cancellation component ~~configured~~ to cancel the ~~audible~~ television output from the captured audio signal and pass the user's voice.

40. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the interactive television system comprises an output device for generating ~~audible~~ television output, wherein the remote control comprises an input device for capturing an audio signal including the television output and a user's voice, and wherein the set top box comprises an output suppression component ~~configured~~ to suppress the ~~audible~~ television output when the input device is capturing ~~[[an]]~~ the audio signal.

41. (currently amended) A method of providing two-way communication over an interactive television system, the interactive television system including a remote control ~~configured~~ to control operation of the interactive television system, the remote control having a memory, a display device, a plurality of user controls, and a wireless transmitter, the method comprising:

storing a list of contacts in the memory, each contact of the list of contacts having an associated address for establishing communication with the contact via the interactive television system;

displaying at least a portion of the contacts of the list of contacts on the display device;

receiving a user selection of a contact from the list; and

transmitting the address associated with the selected contact to the interactive television system to initiate communication between the user and the selected contact; and

receiving at least one user selection of a new contact from the user to form a list of contacts.

42. (original) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

utilizing the remote control to capture audible input and generate audible output to provide two-way communication via the interactive television system through the remote control.

43. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein at least one address comprises a network address.

44. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the network address is selected from the group consisting Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, telephone addresses, and Media Access Control (MAC) addresses.

45. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the network address designates a second interactive television system.

46. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein receiving a user selection of a contact comprises:

receiving a verbal expression from the user;

digitizing the verbal expression;

comparing the digitized verbal expression to a plurality of digitized verbal identifiers contained in the memory, each digitized verbal identifier corresponding to a contact of the list of contacts; and

designating a contact with a digitized verbal identifier that matches the digitized verbal expression as the selected contact.

47. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein receiving a user selection of a contact comprises:

receiving a selection from the user via the user controls to designate the selected contact.

Claim 48 (cancelled)

49. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[48]]~~ 41, wherein receiving at least one selection of a new contact from the user comprises:

receiving a new contact manually through the user controls.

50. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[48]]~~ 41, wherein receiving at least one selection of a new contact from the user comprises:

receiving a selection of a contact from a list being displayed by the interactive television system.

51. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[48]]~~ 41, wherein receiving at least one selection of a new contact from the user comprises:

receiving a selection of a contact selected from the group consisting of a contact with whom communication is presently occurring over the interactive television system, and a contact with whom communication has previously occurred over the interactive television system.

52. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[48]]~~ 41, wherein receiving selections of new contacts from the user comprises:

receiving a new contact from a list stored in an external electronic device.

53. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein each contact of the list of contacts further has an associated visual identifier viewable by a user to identify an associated contact, and wherein displaying at least a portion of the list of contacts on the display device further comprises displaying at least a portion of the visual identifiers.

54. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein at least one visual identifier comprises a plurality of characters forming a name of the contact with which the visual identifier is associated.

55. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein at least one visual identifier comprises a picture of the contact.

56. (original) The method of claim 53, wherein at least one visual identifier comprises an iconic symbol.

57. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein the interactive television system comprises an output device for generating audible output, wherein the remote control comprises an input device for capturing an audio signal including the audible output, the method further comprising:

canceling the audible output from captured audio signal.

58. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein the interactive television system comprises an output device for generating audible output, wherein the remote control comprises an input device for capturing an audio signal, the method further comprising:

suppressing the audible output when the input device is capturing an audio signal.

59. (currently amended) A method of providing two-way communication over an interactive television system, the interactive television system including a remote control configured to control operation of the interactive television system, the remote control having a memory, a display device, a plurality of user controls, a wireless transmitter, a wireless receiver, a microphone, and a speaker, the method comprising:

storing a list of contacts in the memory, each contact of the list of contacts being represented by an ~~having an associated~~ address for establishing communication with the contact via the interactive television system and a picture for selecting the contact;

displaying at least a portion of the ~~contacts of the list of~~ pictures representing contacts on the display device;

detecting a user selection of a picture representing a particular contact from the list; and

transmitting the address associated with the selected contact to the interactive television system;

establishing a two-way communication channel between the user and the selected contact using the interactive television system;

capturing audio input via the microphone in the remote control;

transmitting the audio input to the interactive television system via the wireless transmitter;

receiving audio output from the interactive television system via the wireless receiver; and

outputting the audio output via the speaker in the remote control.

60. (currently amended) A remote control for an interactive television system, the remote control comprising:

a memory ~~configured~~ to store a list of contacts, each contact having an associated address for establishing communication with the contact via the interactive television system;

a display device ~~configured~~ to display at least a portion of the list of contacts;

a plurality of user controls ~~configured~~ to receive a user selection of a contact from the list; ~~and~~

at least one dedicated user control ~~configured~~ to remotely operate the interactive television system; and

a contact entry component to receive user selections of new contacts
to be entered into the list of contacts.